

House Resolution

No. 20

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

April 27, 2015

House Resolution No. 20—Relative to Compost Awareness Week.

1 WHEREAS, Materials, such as yard trimmings, vegetable
2 cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, have
3 all been composted and converted into a beneficial product known
4 as compost; and

5 WHEREAS, Compost is an important soil amendment and is
6 critical to the state’s valuable agricultural industry; and

7 WHEREAS, Returning organic resources to the soil decreases
8 dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, decreases
9 erosion, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and nonpoint source
10 pollution, conserves water, and creates drought-resistant crops;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Composting is an effective form of waste reduction,
13 reuse, and recycling; and since compostable organic materials
14 make up approximately 42 percent of the material going to
15 landfills, composting is becoming one of the primary methods
16 used by communities to reach waste diversion goals; and

17 WHEREAS, Anaerobic digestion is a form of organics
18 management that prepares materials for composting, while
19 capturing methane, a potent greenhouse gas, which is then used
20 to generate electricity and heat or processed into an ultra-low
21 carbon transportation fuel; and

22 WHEREAS, Composting California’s food waste could cut
23 landfill methane emissions by an amount of up to the equivalent
24 of three million tons of carbon dioxide per year, and reduce

1 greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of an additional 3.3
2 million tons, through the use of finished compost in agriculture;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Communities, through their local governments,
5 highway departments, soil conservation services and extension
6 offices, and public works professionals, can have significant impact
7 on clean water, soil, climate change, and landfill diversion by using
8 compost for public works projects; and

9 WHEREAS, Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure
10 for cities and states that implement composting programs; and

11 WHEREAS, The Department of Resources Recycling and
12 Recovery has estimated that recovering a significant portion of
13 our organic waste stream could create 14,000 new jobs in the state
14 by 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, The composting councils of the United States,
16 Canada, and the United Kingdom have all declared the first full
17 week of May as the annual International Compost Awareness
18 Week; now, therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
20 week of May 3, 2015, through May 9, 2015, is hereby designated
21 as Compost Awareness Week; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.